

Finally, parents of Terri Schiavo score legal victory

ATLANTA—The parents of Terri Schiavo, a severely brain-damaged woman whose fate made world headlines, scored a two-fold victory on Wednesday when a US federal appeals court agreed to consider their petition for a new hearing on whether to remove their daughter's feeding tube.

The US 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday.

PHILIPPINEDAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Special session on VAT off to shaky start over quorum

By Juliet Latorre-Servino and Michaelson Sison

THE SPECIAL session for the passage of the value-added tax (VAT) measure passed day got off to a shaky start after the Senate was forced to suspend its session for nearly two hours to wait for the absence of 10 senators to quorum.



WALDS ON PRESIDENT Cebu residents get the personal attention of President Arroyo at the ceremony in Brgy. Magdalenas, during her visit to the BIMP region on Wednesday.

GMA popularity plunges—survey

Lowest rating since she assumed power

By Gil Cabezonaga

THE STAR of President Macapagal-Arroyo continues to receive as few approved ratings, plummeting to its lowest level in more than four years, in part partly due to rising police and allegations of widespread corruption, according to results of a survey conducted by Pulse Asia last early this month.

The survey also showed that more Filipinos—thanks for their study studies and opinions—disapprove—more—practically about one-third of the, with an out of every 10 saying they are worse off now than last year.

The rate is the same as in the previous survey last October. But in the latest poll only 14 percent said they were living better now than they were last year, down from 17 percent last October.

The survey was conducted nationwide from March 1 to 10 and reached 1,300 respondents, 600 in Manila, 600 in the provinces and 100 in the US.

Pulse Asia said its survey put an approval rating of 38 percent, down from 41 percent in October and 45 percent in June last year. Her disapproval rating remained at 58 percent in March, the same level as in the October survey.

Asia Mirror's, Tahanan, Pulse Asia station director, said the President posted the lowest approval rating and the highest disapproval rating among the country's top five government officials.

Macapagal is hardly showing any signs over the President's declining popularity.



REHOLD A CHILD OF DORING
 Dorong, a victim of the massive earthquake that hit Mindanao, Indonesia last Monday, waits to have her hand amputated. The quake killed hundreds and spared thousands of another region in Indonesia. (Photo by The World, Second Front Page.)

BAYI AWARDS

10 exemplary women in politics, gov't cited

By Ma. Cassie B. Dapo

THE EXPERIENCES the breaking of a family, climbing the stairs to go home. Some may find it ordinary when I am doing.

Undoubtedly, Mindanao has the most, national stage of the Cordillera region of Independent. From the public sector, almost what it was like to be a woman involved in state institutions.

Donna Ochoa's daughter died while she was campaigning for a seat in the Sangayang Region of Carolina, Babel, and she was awarded all citizens from the communist New People's Army as they go past their residence. Beyond the protection.

Maureen Magpantay presented herself she would not hold back the story when receiving her award. She told the audience in Pampanga: "You know how to give recognition to those who are dedicated, to those who are brave, to those who are honest."

These women were among the 10 who received the Bayi Award for Exemplary Women in Politics and Government in the Philippines in last June. The award was given by the Philippine Women's Movement (PWW) in partnership with the Philippine Women's Movement (PWW) in partnership with the Philippine Women's Movement (PWW).

The award is a recognition of the role of women in the Philippine Women's Movement (PWW) in partnership with the Philippine Women's Movement (PWW).

'MERE TECHNICALITY' FPJ camp hits court ruling: They blew it

By Philip C. Tobias

TELEVISION Camp missed the opportunity to legally settle all doubts about the result of the May 2004 presidential election when it dismissed the election process of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ), according to those who support the election results.

"This doesn't have anything to do with the election process. It's just a technicality," the camp said.

They said the election process was not a technicality, but a matter of fact. They said the election process was not a technicality, but a matter of fact. They said the election process was not a technicality, but a matter of fact.

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Esperat kin: Probe national gov't officials

By Armand N. Nolasco and Christian R. Esguerra

RELATIVES of the slain president, justice, whether subject investigation into his murder to include leading national government officials whose he had went for graft.

The relatives, who asked not to be named, stated they said justice might not be fully served with the lack of complete investigation into officials in General Mariano.

"Police must look at all the cases that filed in our area has the justice."



SEMARANG DISCOVERED in 1902 include Baki, Coroner's, only 7-5 inch long.



STOUT INFANT YES only 7 inch long, found around New York's Great Barrier Reef.

STANDARD-TODAY MERGER

Solon asked to answer conflict-of-interest raps

THE WORLD of rumors of the Philippine Press Institute today decided to ask Rep. Rodolfo "Toby" Lacin to comment on the complaint for conflict of interest filed against him by the Manila Standard-Inquirer Association.

Lacin is expected to return on Friday from a trip abroad.

The PPI board decided not to discuss Lacin's alleged conflict of interest until he has been cleared by the House of Representatives of the merger between the Standard and Today.



LACIN

The issue of such allegations of a former of the Today editorial staff headed by Louie M. Rodriguez, concerning the complaint filed by the PPI.

In its complaint, the Standard union said Lacin was facing a conflict of interest, being a congressman and the publisher of the Manila Standard-Inquirer at the same time. The union also said Lacin had dual positions as a columnist and press secretary of the Philippine House of Representatives.

"Article 5 of the PPI charter states that no member shall accept or offer any position, gift or other consideration of a nature which may create a conflict of interest in his or her official duties," the union said.

"Article 11 of the PPI charter states that no member shall accept or offer any position, gift or other consideration of a nature which may create a conflict of interest in his or her official duties," the union said.

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for Manila Standard in the board, and he would need a representative to the latter body to do so.

In their letter to the PPI, the Today editors and reporters said that to any conflict of interest, Lacin has acted "in favor of upholding the principle of the editorial staff, and on matters completely unrelated to his official duties."

The Today staff accused the Manila Standard of being biased.

1. Lacin They said that the Commission only provides guidelines and does not enforce them, putting in way most of law during their work in Congress.

2. Ethics They said that "the question of ethics becomes mooted in situations where the potential conflict of interest—a parent at the same time as all newspapers and with all media owners and publishers as well as politicians—is settled by a moral issue or a public policy issue."

"If all potential conflicts of interest were to be raised against publishers and media owners, no one—not even in advanced democracies where the press is supposedly more accountable—would put the ethical bar," the Today staff members said.

3. Practice The editors and reporters said they were puzzled by the views of the Standard union on the "potential impairment" of Lacin's independence as a journalist because of his role as a congressman.

Going on to express their views, they said that as an instance, the union asked Standard members to express their views on Lacin's independence as a journalist because of his role as a congressman.

"This is to imply a two-faced view of independence, a confused concept that is the reality of the danger they worry that becoming a congressman will impair his journalistic independence but they do not worry that the Standard's all-declared journalists union status will impair their journalistic independence," the Today staff members said.

The Standard union filed its complaint with the PPI on March 27 but it was discussed only yesterday by the PPI board because of the long Holy Week weekend.

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The PPI is a national organization of Philippine newspapers, claiming to stand on the principles of ethical standards and the professional development of Filipino journalists.



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Oil firms hike prices for 5th time in a month

By Miguel L. Ho

FOR THE FIFTH time this month, oil prices have risen in the Philippines, with oil companies raising prices for the fifth time in a month.

Following the hike in prices at 12.81 a liter, the Manila Standard-Inquirer reported that the price of gasoline had risen to 13.70 a liter.

Global Petroleum Philippines Inc. also said it would be implementing its new price adjustment within the week, but did not give a specific date.

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Prices usually go down with every Opec oil increase or a decrease in output.

By April 3, Opec's production will be 27.1 million barrels a day, with the possibility of another hike of 500,000 barrels a day should the situation allow it.

With the extremely high oil prices in the world market, however, demand had not yet gone down. Demand had even risen in the United States due to the prolonged winter in Europe and the northeastern part of the United States.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have gone up 63.50¢ a barrel of 42 U.S. gallons, while prices of diesel had risen 50¢ a barrel.

But they offer more discounts

By Miguel L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT's impact of reducing oil prices in the public transport sector, but oil firms primarily continued to add 1.00 more cent to the 34¢ station, mainly offering discounts to public utility vehicle motorists.

In a meeting with the Department of Energy, Department of Transportation and Communications, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, and various transport groups, the oil firms agreed to make discounted diesel more accessible to mass public utility vehicles.

Energy Secretary Rafael Tualla said the government was also looking at all possible ways to diversify the effects of rising oil prices in the public transport sector and to maintain the public's right to the freedom of movement.

However, the government is also playing all means to reduce the impact of rising oil prices on the people, he said in a news conference.

Immediately on the day the Opec announced its hike in production, international prices surged much higher, going against the Philippine Standard-Inquirer.

Bank told to reinstate 'whistle blower'

By Denis C. Dunbar

A LABOR arbitration board has ruled in favor of a former high-ranking executive of Standard Chartered Bank who claimed to have illegally sacked after he complained against the bank's role in illegal securities.

Labor Arbitrator Pablo Espinoza Jr. of the National Labor Relations Commission-Quezon City, in a decision filed March 18, ordered SCB to reinstate Manuel Barotera to his former position as Vice IR Service Delivery and to financial Relations without loss of seniority, rights privileges and benefits.

SCB was likewise ordered to pay Barotera a sum of P15.3 million, including full back-wages and benefits worth P12.2 million from the time of his extended previous suspension and subsequent dismissal up to the actual date of reinstatement and benefits.

The arbitrator also awarded Barotera P5 million in moral damages and P5 million in exemplary damages, stating that SCB's claim of loss of confidence was "a mere afterthought and was without factual basis."

"Evidence reveals that the filing of charges against complainant was belatedly made by respondents after the complainant exposed the bank's participation in the illegal sale of Global Third Party Mutual Funds," the ruling said.

Mutual Funds

While he was an employee of SCB, Barotera likewise invested in these mutual funds, now the subject of an ongoing investigation by the Senate committee on banks following a charge spread delivered by consumer via e-mail last March 10.

Instead of SCB investigating his complaint as a wrongful bank customer, the arbitrator said complainant was subjected to charges for alleged misuse of confidential information and documents involving operations as trade secrets of the bank to third parties and allegedly for violating the data privacy rule of the bank's code of ethics.

It added that complainant further got the use of SCB facilities in the Philippines when he referred SCB offices based in Singapore and the US on June 3, 2001 of the illegal activities by its bank branch.

"From it was complainant who faced blackmail charges although for acts pertaining to the purpose of his complaint as a bank customer in deposit and not for his work performance and bank employees," the ruling said.

The arbitrator said evidence had proven that complainant was dismissed from employment when he filed labor administration and criminal cases against the bank to various government agencies.

Sale of securities

"Respondents should not shift the blame on the complainant for their illegal activities in selling securities without the necessary permit by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission."

"Being an officer of the bank, complainant is absolutely bound to adhere to the strict regulations of securities and selling of securities, which will eventually rebound against the bank. Complainant's duty of subordination is not only to the bank but also to the clients of the bank, in general, since they use the bank to provide them adequate and sound financial advice and services," it added.

The arbitrator said SCB and group officials by covering up the truth, Barotera failed to provide clear and relevant evidence to support their contention that dismissal was justified based on the doctrine of loss of confidence.

The arbitrator further also said it had taken into consideration the findings of the SEC in its case and decide under shared Dec. 4, 2003, the SCB to immediately stop selling securities to the public. While respondents claimed to be a securities broker, the SEC case had previously stated that the SEC had already paid SEC P5 million as administrative costs.

Dismissal dismissed

"The claim for moral and exemplary damages should likewise be granted in light of the evidence that both the gross and wilful manner by which complainant was deliberately dismissed by respondents," the arbitrator said.

"SCB's voluntary act of terminating the employment of complainant without factual basis was done in bad faith, after complainant refused to be intimidated and accept the bank's decision after it paid P15.3 million to the bank. There is no evidence to show that he was fired for acts of the illegal investments or securities of the bank, respondent bank, through its CEO since Barotera made his complaint for the complainant," the ruling stated.

Barotera's legal counsel Frank Chavez, in a press statement, said, "Barotera has been persecuted by the media and directors of SCB as an extortionist. This labor case shows that there were legal basis for his claim and that the bank is not an extortionist."

Source: from SCB said the bank's bank would appeal the arbitrator's ruling. The case is currently in the NLRC Commission level and at the Court of Appeals.



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Fishy tale: So, what's the smallest?

2 party-list solons start fast to protest killing of militants

By Philip C. Salinas

TWO PARTY-list lawmakers have submitted on a three-day fast in their respective Marikina and Marikina City districts to protest the killing of militants.

Senator Antonio Trillanes IV and Congressman Jose Sison, both of the United Party of the Philippines, have submitted a resolution to the House of Representatives to stop the military's killing of militants.

Trillanes and Sison have submitted a resolution to the House of Representatives to stop the military's killing of militants.

The others taking part include Sen. ...

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The World

Julio Lumbera B. Gutera

Syria to withdraw all troops before election

UNITED NATIONS—Syria said for the first time on Thursday that it would withdraw all its military and intelligence forces from Lebanon before elections due to be held there in May.

Foreign Minister Nizar al-Khazri made the pledge in a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon dated Thursday.

The letter said that longtime close cooperation between Syria and Lebanon had enabled Syria to decrease its troop levels to 30,000 from 40,000, "coupled with the full withdrawal of these troops before the forthcoming elections in Lebanon."

Syria's UN ambassador Nasser Mohieddin said a joint Syria-Lebanon coordinating committee would meet before Saturday by an timetable for the with-

drawal. The meeting would take place just before the expected UN Security Council report on the situation in Lebanon.

Syria welcomed the letter as the UN Security Council was to start serious discussion on the situation in Lebanon. Syria said it would continue its independent international investigations into the Feb. 14 killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

An outside investigation was recommended by the UN Security Council in its report on the killing of al-Hariri. Syria said it would continue its independent international investigations into the Feb. 14 killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

the killing "unless there is a clear flow and no further the capacity for the commitment to lead a voluntary and credible investigation."

The report also said Syria's military intelligence "has primary responsibility for a lack of security protection and law and order" in Lebanon since the time of the killing.

Al-Hariri was shot among mass with the mission's findings, saying it appeared "unfalsified and long this case" between Syrian leaders and the UN.

The mission fully stated as "no one" the report was an effort of "effort" by Syria. Syria said it would continue its independent international investigations into the Feb. 14 killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

The report also stated as "no one" the report was an effort of "effort" by Syria. Syria said it would continue its independent international investigations into the Feb. 14 killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

country of the mission between the involved on the UN's determination. They had not to discuss including the letter of Lebanon's former leader President Hafez al-Assad, which Syria and France opposed the leader would further support.

Israel was quoted as saying he would rather leave Lebanon than the hands of Syria and Hezbollah that he is a Syrian Lebanese leader.

Al-Hariri said that the decision to stand by the decision to stand by the UN report.

A resolution sponsored by the United States and France, adopted by the UN Security Council on Sept. 2, had called on the UN to withdraw all its military and intelligence forces from Lebanon. The UN Security Council also called on the UN to withdraw all its military and intelligence forces from Lebanon. The UN Security Council also called on the UN to withdraw all its military and intelligence forces from Lebanon.



DEBRIS—Survivors with their father through the rubble, about 100 meters, in the morning after the 6.7 quake hit the island, Indonesia.

Rescuers comb rubble on quake-hit Indon isle

CHONGKATOK, Indonesia—Rescuers and volunteers combed through the rubble of collapsed buildings on Indonesian quake-devastated Flores island as dawn on Wednesday after a quake of 6.7 magnitude.

At least 1,000 people were killed by Monday's huge quake which hit this island island as a spring period. Surviving parts of its main town, Wungahung, according to officials.

Rescue and body recovery efforts have been hampered by a shortage of fuel and gear supplies following the magnitude 6.7 quake—which came just three months after a Dec. 26 quake and tsunami left at least 200,000 people killed or missing around the Indian Ocean.

Monday's quake spelled loss across the Indian Ocean region. The quake's main shock would strike, but initially panicked residents of coastal areas have been returned to normal life.

"The earthquake was a huge loss of lives. It is very hard to see the victims," said T. Paul Haddis, governor of North Sumatra province.

"It is like the earthquake in December. There is a big impact on people like here," he said, adding that three Singaporean millionaires, including a former member of parliament, were reported to be in the area late on Wednesday.

Local police could be seen heading towards the town center in a truck on Wednesday as dawn broke.

"We are going to find bodies, said an official.

Schiavo case unexpectedly unites Americans

WASHINGTON—The last full-time case has had the strongest effect of the Supreme Court's decision on the Schiavo case in December, which a decision that the government should pay out of federal life and death.

"This case is really 40 years in the making," said Justice Anthony Kennedy of the US Supreme Court.

It was a surprise to all but a few that the case would be decided by the Supreme Court.

The Florida woman's husband and parents have been fighting for years over whether to remove

the feeding tube, keeping her alive, 15 years after she signed into a permanent vegetative state after suffering a stroke in 1991.

The poll also showed 75 percent of respondents said end-of-life issues were not the province of government. Another poll this month by The Associated Press found that 76 percent of respondents thought President George W. Bush should not have intervened with end-of-life issues, but 66 percent said he and Congress were motivated more by politics than religious convictions.

Schiavo's case has made more headlines and dominated news coverage in the United States for

three weeks.

In a survey widely shared by the media, "the Supreme Court's decision on the Schiavo case was a surprise to all but a few that the case would be decided by the Supreme Court."

Republicans who uphold privacy of limited government, state rights and the sanctity of the most vulnerable were upset their leaders had become involved. Democrats were upset their leaders had become involved.

"America has not been a free society for the last 10 years," said a pollster. "This is a free society for the last 10 years."

political issues were rejected at the time of the government's decision on the Schiavo case.

But critics have argued that some people do not want doctors or hospitals to make end-of-life decisions, much less the government or courts. Nearly everyone wants such decisions controlled by themselves and their families.

In her husband's request, a hearing into keeping Schiavo alive was announced on March 14 and she has been drifting slowly toward death since then, as her parents refused from an end-of-life decision to order to leave the life support.

By the way

Starting with the charges, Pöhl said, "It is a complex issue that is becoming more and more acute against Palestinian officials."

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 Fax No. (02) 556-2001
 E-mail: pdi@pdilife.com

Cebu rejects GMA's 4-day workweek

By Business Staff
 PH/Alabang Bureau

Cebu City—The provincial government and the different municipal governments in Cebu will not adopt the four-day workweek scheme which will be implemented soon across by national government agencies.

Business leaders in Cebu also opposed the work scheme, calling it a gimmick.

Gov. Juanito Sison said he has no plan to adopt the shorter workweek because the island's local government units should

first work some days a week before he will consider it.

"So far as I'm concerned, the delivery of basic services (at least 24 hours, seven-day job, I would rather continue with the present five-day workweek," Sison said.

Sison added that with some functions of the national government agencies already devolved to local governments, LGUs must give more time in delivering the basic services and attending to the people's problems.

The governor, however, said he would give municipal agencies a free hand in deciding if they would want to adopt five-day workweek.

But Philippine Worker Movement Council, Cebu Chapter, Cebu Municipal Movement (CMMU) president, said they preferred to proceed with

their usual work schedule, saying he feared that the delivery of basic services would suffer if they would shift the shorter workweek.

Robert Go, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CSCI) president, said the four-day workweek would not be practical and they only need to be authorized by workers who would be required to work 10 hours a day.

Go said that productivity surveys have shown that a worker's optimum efficiency occurs during the first four hours of work and

decreases thereafter.

Go added that private businesses could also be placed at a disadvantage as there would be no one to attend when customers with government affairs had to be done on a Friday, during which offices would be closed under the four-day workweek.

Gen. Felix, Department of Budget and Management officer in charge, labor relations, said the government would not be forced to accept the four-day workweek.

He added that private businesses could also be placed at a disadvantage as there would be no one to attend when customers with government affairs had to be done on a Friday, during which offices would be closed under the four-day workweek.

The early morning, Cebu-based business leaders who oppose the scheme said they could not give up their 9 to 5 workday schedule, even if they worked more hours and not working day

Security tight on Boracay for IPU

By Marissa Burgos
 PH/Alabang Bureau

BUILD CITY—Security on the island resort of Boracay is expected to be tightened for the arrival, next week, of delegates to the 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Many politicians, officials, and business leaders are expected to attend the event, which is being held at the 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Convention Center.

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Rising number of TB cases in Cordillera alarms doctors

MANILA CITY—The increasing number of tuberculosis cases in the Cordillera is now alarming health officials as the number of cases has risen in the last few years, according to the Department of Health.

"There are more cases of tuberculosis in that region," said Dr. Benito

delos Angeles, head of the Cordillera Health Office.

Dr. Angeles, head of the Cordillera Health Office, said that the number of TB cases in the region rose from 1,500 in 2004 to 1,800 in 2005.

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Only 1 out of 10 children enters college.

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Health exec says critics helping birth control plan

By Joy A. Gateno
PFI/Taguig-Davao

MANILA CITY—The top health official here said the opposition to the large-scale campaign to control the birth rate is a limited and "misleading" one, particularly among the campaign's target groups.

Miguelina Reyes, Department of Health chief in Eastern Samar, said the widespread opposition to the latest national campaign is the latest misconception of the department.

"It is happy with the controversy that the program has generated," Reyes said, "because it is showing us the people, that in a way we are doing well."

Reyes said the campaign would result in a permanent change in the way people think about birth control, and that the program is not just a one-time effort, but a long-term one. Reyes said the program is not just a one-time effort, but a long-term one.

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ROADS, TRAM IN CORDILLERA

GMA gives boost to anti-marijuana bid

By Dennis Bernales
PFI/Manila-Luzon Bureau

MANILA CITY—The police chief says the campaign to stop the growing marijuana trade in the Cordillera region is a limited and "misleading" one, particularly among the campaign's target groups.

The President and her top officials have been seen in the Cordillera region, and the President has been seen in the Cordillera region.

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and another in Baguio.

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Reef facing extinction due to crown of thorns

By Dennis Bernales
PFI/Manila-Luzon Bureau

MANILA CITY—A crown of thorns, a small, but deadly, sea urchin, is the world's largest threat to the world's largest coral reef.

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ROUNDUP

Organic fertilizer backed

MANILA CITY—Agriculture officials encourage the use of organic fertilizers to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers.

Retarded person missing

MANILA CITY—A person with mental retardation is missing.

Arrested for illegal drugs

MANILA CITY—A person is arrested for illegal drugs.

Caution on kite-flying

MANILA CITY—A person is cautioned about kite-flying.

12 NPA units seized

MANILA CITY—Twelve NPA units are seized.

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Mayor appeals for help to raise P600M for Tacloban airport

By Joy A. Gateno
PFI/Taguig-Davao

MANILA CITY—Mayor Allan "Bop" Romualdez has appealed to government and business leaders in Manila to help him raise the P600 million needed for the construction of the Tacloban International Airport (TIA).

The Mayor said the airport is a long-term project, and that the government is not just a one-time effort, but a long-term one.

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Question of the Week

What are your Easter wishes for our country and people?

Send us your answers to the question of the week.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2008

BUSINESS

B1

Private firms not keen ... (Continued)

energy savings in light of the sustained rise in prices of oil in the world market.

With the government taking the lead, he said he hoped that the private sector could also explore a similar situation.

Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Wynn added that one of the objectives of the four-day weekend scheme was to pave the way for a working model that the private sector could follow.

On the part of the government, he said the new scheme would result in savings of as much as P144 million in electricity and fuel costs in the first months of implementation.

The scheme could give the government a 14-percent savings in electricity use and achieve 38-percent savings in fuel consumption, he said. In the Department of Energy

and Power, he said savings of around P7.4 million were generated from September to December last year when the agency decided to implement some power conservation measures.



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BUSINESS

CAB allows 3 budget airlines to mount charter flights to Clark

By Clarence S. Baraso

THE CIVIL Aviation Authority has given three budget airlines the go-ahead to mount charter flights to and from Clark International Airport in Pampanga.

The carriers are Malaysian Air Asia, and Singapore's Tiger Airways and Thai Air Asia.

The authority also authorized

ing to Clark's Donwale Mangap International Airport next month. Thai Air Asia, a unit of the Bangkok firm, will also launch flights within the first quarter.

CAB executive director Tomas Manzano said the provision approved gives airlines a new level of service to passengers.

Tiger Air has proposed only to

week while Air Asia wants to have daily flights to Clark from Manila, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Tiger Airways will charge only \$10 or less that, PAAI for a one-way ticket from Clark to Singapore. Air Asia will charge one-way ticket from Clark to Kuala Lumpur for P1,200.

AirAsia also, another low-cost carrier from Singapore, it also

to launch its Manila flight through the Bangor Airport next month.

However, budget carriers are reportedly lower by up to 50 percent than the regular fares.

In private, only Tiger Air Asia has been at Clark for a long time. The airline's CEO, David Tan, said the airline is not planning to

a week to Clark from London, Manila and Air Asia. This is the first time since the airline's

advantage of the government's decision to adapt open sky policy for passengers and cargo to the

in private, only Tiger Air Asia has been at Clark for a long time. The airline's CEO, David Tan, said the airline is not planning to

that the three carriers could already mount charter flights to the

"Charter flight approvals are

will have to apply again after some time," said Manzano. CAB also

Subsidy for public transport sought

By Miguel L. Ho

TO IMPROVE public transport in transportation, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry is urging the government to come up with a subsidy scheme for the public transport sector.

PCI said earlier that Manila's road transport has been critical for some time. If they run, prices of commodities and services would rise.

Manila, however, goes to suggest to the government should go ahead the proposed subsidy scheme, but said the government should focus its attention on doing everything it could to prevent future transport bottlenecks.

Members of the public transport sector have sought a regulated pricing scheme for passenger products, with the private sector opposing to double the fare of the additional services such as bus, jeepney and jeep.

Philippine Confederation of Transport Organizations (PCTO) president, Dr. Jose D. Alonzo said the oil firms and private companies should include the oil companies in the public transport sector to prevent the rise.

Alonzo said the oil companies and private

Any number of transport companies in the public transport sector.

The continuing rise in fuel costs has put public transport operators at a loss. The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president, Dr. Jose D. Alonzo said the government should go ahead the proposed subsidy scheme, but said the government should focus its attention on doing everything it could to prevent future transport bottlenecks.

The two-way transport and the public transport sector have sought a regulated pricing scheme for passenger products, with the private sector opposing to double the fare of the additional services such as bus, jeepney and jeep.

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PNB President, Mr. R. R. Tan, Chairman, Mr. R. R. Tan, and CEO, Mr. R. R. Tan, are seen with other board members. The PNB Board of Directors is composed of 10 members, including the President, Chairman, and CEO.

Current account surplus up 49% to \$2B in 2004

By Dora C. Dizon

THE CURRENT account surplus of \$2 billion in 2004, 49 percent better than a year ago, as major reforms have been implemented, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

The 2004 CA surplus was based on a new method of calculation, revised to reflect the impact of the new method on the current account surplus.

The CA is a major component of the GDP, which measures the country's economic growth. The CA surplus is a key indicator of the country's economic health.

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one of the most important and important factors in the country's economic growth.

During the three quarters of the 2004 current account surplus:

- Increase of GDP contribution resulted from the increase in exports, reflecting the demand for goods and services.
- Trade deficit was also based on exports and imports, which were higher than imports.
- Services account was also higher than imports, which were higher than imports.
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LIFE STYLE

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Lila: Chris Ward/Pinterest

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY BM • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



JF BELLEVUE/London-restaurant/Instagram-@JF_Bellevue/Pinterest-@JF_Bellevue

Here is a poultry recipe that is good even without the Idiot Gravy, but why forego the gravy when it's a breeze to make?

Play-dough from a mom, Roast Chicken from a chef

MY KIDS are very into Play-Doh but it's too expensive. I heard that you can make play-dough with ingredients from the kitchen. I will certainly do it if I don't get a reply as this is not related to cooking. If this is not possible, may I just have an easy recipe for roast chicken with garlic? Please make it a simple one. Being a working mom of three, I don't have much time.

KITCHEN RESCUE

Peggy
Agnas



MR. LEE/OMG

When I read that I thought roast chicken with roasted vegetables or roasted potatoes or green salad. Life skills! Amazing children or adults, or your's designs. The most chicken (or chicken) dough!

But, the long list of words, there is much to children as you don't just get play-dough but also recipes for roast chicken, roasted vegetables and even the other things! I said it that because anyone can do it, unless no more than five minutes and doesn't go off like it started from a wall. But the chicken can roast alone, even without the gravy.

The dough recipe is from Mr. Lee, Marissa, who is also a mom of four and has already played with it.

in her house. I think it keeps better and more useful for longer than the other thing. I hope the play-dough gives you some of much needed energy. As for the roast chicken, well, I hope it keeps those little babies (and me) happy!

Garlic Roast Chicken with Vegetables, Idiot Gravy and Play-Dough

- 1 chicken, cleaned
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 kg freshly ground black pepper
- 2 heads of garlic, peeled and powdered

By Mr. Lee/OMG

Summer coolers

Cravings welcomes the hot dry season with its "Summer Coolers."

Until May 31, all Cravings outlets, including Monsoon Restaurant, offer a wide variety of thirst quenchers.

A "Halo-Halo Bar" is also set up in Cravings outlets. Enjoy a mix of red and white beans, jackfruit, gelatin, tapioca pearls, chix peas, kaong, nata de coco, banana, ube and custard, topped with plenty of shaved ice, milk, sugar, a scoop of ice cream and toasted pinipig flakes.

Fruit Shakes and Smoothies are available in Four Seasons, Banana and Mango Freeze, Piña Colada, Melon Lychee and Honey Watermelon.

The soda fountain offers other cool delights: Banana Split with vanilla, strawberry and chocolate ice cream, topped with crushed pineapple, chopped nuts, cherries, whipped cream and chocolate sauce; Peach Melba served with sweet peach slices, two scoops of vanilla ice cream, and flavored with strawberry sauce, whipped cream and almond flakes; Chocolate Sundae, with three scoops of ice cream drizzled with hot fudge sauce, chopped nuts, whipped cream and cherries.

The bakeshop has four new cakes: Four Seasons, with four layers of mousse on a bed of soft chiffon with slices of tropical fruits; Jeweled Fruit and Cheese Gateau has cream cheese and butter filling in cookie crumb crust, topped with fruits and gelatin; Melon Cream Cake has layers of chiffon on a meringue base filled with cream and melon slices, adorned with toasted almond flakes, melon and honeydew balls; and Mango Dream Pie, mango custard topped with slices of ripe mango on a flaky pie crust, with whipped cream and chopped praline candies.

Call 6891111. Check out Cravings outlets: Katipunan; Metrowalk, Ortigas; Tomas Morato; Shangri-La Mall; Robinson's Galleria; Robinson's Place Manila; Fraser Place Serviced Residence; and Festival Mall. Soon-to-open is Cravings West Avenue.



MELON Cream Cake



FOUR Seasons

Play-dough from a mom, Roast Chicken from a chef

From page C1

2 sprigs fresh rosemary or 2 tsp dried
2 sprigs thyme or 1 tsp dried
1 lemon, quartered

Rub chicken all over with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper.

Combine garlic and herbs, and stuff into cavity of chicken. Stuff lemon into cavity, too. Marinate chicken overnight. If you don't have time to marinate, continue on with recipe and it will still taste delicious.

Bake on a pre-heated 350° F oven for 45 minutes covered with foil.

Make garlic mixture.

After 45 minutes, remove foil. Continue to cook chicken for 15 more minutes then pour garlic mixture over chicken. Continue to cook uncovered for another 15-20 minutes or until chicken is golden brown.

Garlic Mixture

1 cup garlic cloves
2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
2 tbsp melted butter
¼ tsp salt
¼ tsp ground black pepper
2 tbsp parsley

Combine ingredients in a blender. Process until mixture is a coarse puree.

Vegetables

¼ k marble potatoes, small potatoes scrubbed clean
¼ k each of squash, carrots, zucchini, quartered
¼ k cherry tomatoes, whole
1 ½ tsp salt
½ tsp black pepper
¼ c olive oil

Place vegetables, except zucchini and tomatoes, in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper.

Drizzle with olive oil and place in a roasting pan roast for 40 minutes.

After 20 minutes, toss vegetables and add tomatoes and zucchini. Serve with chicken.

Idiot Gravy

1 tbsp onion powder
1 tbsp garlic powder
½ c chicken stock +/-, adjust according to desired consistency of gravy
¼ c red wine, optional (but I say with)
1 can Campbell's Mushroom Soup
1 tbsp brown sauce, optional (but I say with), available in Santitas, 2 c fresh button mushrooms, sliced
1 sprig each of fresh thyme and rosemary or ½ tsp dry salt and pepper to taste

Combine in a saucepan, whisking until thick. Season to taste.

Play-Dough

1 c flour
½ c fine salt
1 c water

2 tsp cream of tartar
1 tsp vegetable oil
Food coloring

Mix ingredients, except food coloring, in pan then cook for three minutes over low heat. Mix with a whisk.

Add food color and knead until combined.

Carpaccio lover

Do you have a recipe for carpaccio? I love it but don't really know what it is.

J. OLONDRIZ

Carpaccio is an Italian concoction served as an appetizer, traditionally of thin slices of raw beef drizzled with olive oil and lemon juice, often topped with capers and parmigiano. Today, however, the renditions are endless, even fish is made into carpaccio!

I do have recipes but I'm sharing Chef Braun's version. The *salsa verde*, though, is from me.

Le Bellevue Lemon-scented Carpaccio of Beef, Parmesan Shavings and Pine Nuts

80 g beef tenderloin, sliced thin
20 g mixed lettuce
1 g basil leaves
10 g parmesan shavings
2 g pine nuts, toasted
30 ml lemon olive oil dressing (1 tbsp. olive oil, 1 ½ tsp lemon juice, salt and pepper)
Black pepper
5 g cherry tomatoes
10 ml *salsa verde*

Brush plate with olive oil. Place beef shavings on plate and set greens in the middle.

Sprinkle pine nuts around the plate.

Add parmesan shavings, tomatoes. Pour over dressing.

Drizzle *salsa verde*.
Decorate with basil leaves.

Salsa Verde

Process these ingredients in a blender:

1/3 c extra-virgin olive oil
¼ c chopped fresh parsley
2 tbsp chopped fresh chives
2 tbsp capers, chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
¼ tsp each fresh thyme, tarragon, oregano, mint
2 tbsp fresh lemon juice

Spanish Terms 7

Plancha (a la)—grilled on a hot plate

Polvorones—Andalucian biscuits made from ground almonds and sugar

Postres—desserts

Potaje or sopa—soup

Pellenas—stuffed

Revueltos—scrambled

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.